

Remarks

In the present application, claims 1 to 6 have been amended and claims 1 to 6 remain pending. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of these amendments and remarks are requested.

Drawing and Specification Objections

The Examiner objected to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), and the Specification under 37 CFR 1.75, as failing to show the ring structures recited in the claims. Claims 1 to 6 have been amended to remove the term "ring structure" and replace it with "cable bracket." Applicant directs the Examiner's attention generally to the Specification the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 27, as well as to page 19, line 6, to page 21, line 8, and to FIGS. 8, and 27 to 30, for support of this amendment, and specifically to cable brackets 36 and 38.

With regard to the title of the invention, Applicant submits that the title is indeed descriptive of the invention claimed. The claims clearly recite a cross aisle connection panel, matching closely the title of the application. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the title.

Applicant submits that the objections to the Specification and the Drawings have been overcome and withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for use of "ring structures" which was not supported by the Specification. These rejections are respectfully traversed. As noted above, the claims have been amended to recite "cable bracket" in place of "ring structure."

The Examiner also rejected claims 1 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for lacking antecedent basis for the limitation "each end." These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. Claim 1, at lines 2 and 3, recites in part, a housing with first and second opposed sides and first and second opposed ends. Claim 1, as amended at lines 7 and 8, also recites "each opposed end." Claim 4, at line 11, as amended, recites in part, a housing with first and second opposing ends. Claim 4, as amended at lines 16

and 17, also recites "each opposing end." Applicants submit that both claims 1 and 4 provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation cited by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, and respectfully request the rejections for informalities be withdrawn.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Miller et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,989,074. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part, that the cross aisle connection panel includes first and second opposing sides and that input and output connectors are mounted on the same side. First and second cable brackets are mounted on each of opposite ends of the panel and are hinged about vertical axes. Each end of the panel includes a first cable bracket and a second cable bracket. Each of the second cable brackets may be in a first position where the bracket covers at least some of both the input and the output connectors.

In contrast, the disconnect module shown in Miller includes a plurality circuit board subassemblies 12, to which are mounted input connectors 30 on a first side and output connectors 40 on a second opposite side. A cover 92 is hinged about a horizontal axis to a single side of the module. The Examiner stated that it would be obvious to make cover 92 in two parts and hinge mount the two parts at the two ends. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that a vertical orientation of the hinge would be desirable or possible.

If cover 92 is split, with one half hinged as shown adjacent input connectors 30, and the other half hinged adjacent output connectors 40, then each of the covers 92 would only cover either the input or the output connectors, but not both. Further, the cited prior art teaches that cover 92 be hingedly mounted on one side of mounting track 72 by hinges 93 engaging hinge pins 86. A latch 97 molded into the cover interacts with retention arms 95 to hold the cover in the closed position. (See col. 7, lines 5 to 16.) To split cover 92 lengthwise and mount one half along the top end of each track wall 83 would not permit the cover to include the latch as taught by Miller. There is no teaching or suggestion that the top of each track wall 83 include hinge pins 86.

Splitting cover 92 perpendicular to the hinge line would create two covers but both covers would be hinged along the same side, not on opposed ends, as recited in claim 1. Further,

there is no teaching or suggestion that two cable brackets or covers be mounted at each end, as recited by claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from and further limit claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the cited prior art does not render claim 1 to 3 obvious and that claims 1 to 3 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claim 4 as amended recites, in part, that a telecommunications rack includes a cross aisle panel. The cross aisle panel includes first and second opposing ends, and a faceplate including a plurality of input connectors on a first side of the faceplate. A plurality of output connectors on the first side are electronically connected to the plurality of input connectors. A first cable bracket and a second cable bracket are mounted at each opposing end. The second cable bracket is hingedly mounted about a vertical axis and movable between a first and second position. The second cable bracket covers at least some of the input and output connectors on the first side when in the first position. The covered input and output connectors are exposed when the second cable bracket is in the second position.

As noted above with to claim 1, the disconnect module shown in Miller includes a plurality circuit board subassemblies 12, to which are mounted input connectors 30 on a first side and output connectors 40 on a second opposite side. A cover 92 is hinged about a horizontal axis to a single side of the module. The Examiner stated that it would be obvious to make cover 92 in two parts and hinge mount the two parts at the two ends. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that a vertical orientation of the hinge would be desirable or possible.

If cover 92 is split, with one half hinged as shown adjacent input connectors 30, and the other half hinged adjacent output connectors 40, then each of the covers 92 would only cover either the input or the output connectors, but not both. Further, the cited prior art teaches that cover 92 be hingedly mounted on one side of mounting track 72 by hinges 93 engaging hinge pins 86. A latch 97 molded into the cover interacts with retention arms 95 to hold the cover in the closed position. (See col. 7, lines 5 to 16.) To split cover 92 lengthwise and mount one half along the top end of each track wall 83 would not permit the cover to include the latch as taught by Miller. There is no teaching or suggestion that the top of each track wall 83 include hinge pins 86.

Splitting cover 92 perpendicular to the hinge line would create two covers but both covers would be hinged along the same side, not on opposing ends, as recited in claim 4. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that two cable brackets or covers be mounted at each end, as recited by claim 1.

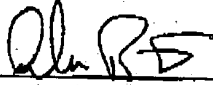
Claims 5 and 6 depend from and further limit claim 4.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claims 4 to 6 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claims 4 to 6 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the above Amendment and Response, or if the Examiner feels that telephone interview may assist the examination of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative Alan Stewart at 612.371.5376.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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By: 
Name: Alan R. Stewart
Reg. No.: 47,974
ARS:pll